

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATEMENT

Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi Issues Statement Regarding Governor Schwarzenegger's Appointments to the Commission for Economic Development

SACRAMENTO - Today Governor Schwarzenegger announced his appointments to the California Commission for Economic Development, which is chaired by Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi. The Commission provides strong bipartisan support and guidance to the Governor and Legislature on bringing about the best overall economic development measures for the State. The following is a statement from Lieutenant Governor Garamendi:

"I am very pleased with the Governor's appointments to the Commission for Economic Development (CED). They bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to this important panel.

"Rick Baum, who will serve as Executive Director, will assist me and other key officers in developing the Commission's overall strategic direction. Mr. Baum is a fourth generation Californian who has held senior executive positions with a range of state businesses. Most recently he served as my Chief Deputy at the Department of Insurance.

"In its mandate to study the California economy and advise the Governor and the Legislature, the Commission possesses great potential to positively affect the course of California's economic future. During my inaugural I promised that the economic vitality of this state would be a top priority for me in this office. As the chair of the CED, I will reinvigorate the panel and focus its resources toward more growth opportunities for new and existing businesses, leading to good, solid jobs for Californians.

"At our first meeting to be held in late July, I will recommend to the Commissioners that we focus initially on advancing the Governor's Career Technical Education and workforce development initiative, and on a strategy to enhance green industry in California. This state became a worldwide economic leader by creating a fertile environment for the growth of innovative ideas, such as those that led to Apple Computer, Inc., and Hewlett-Packard. With the help of my fellow commissioners, I am confident California will continue to be on the cutting edge of innovation and economic success."

Commission members appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger include:

- David Greenclay Crane, 53, of San Francisco
- Demos V. Vardiabasis, 56, of Downey
- Virginia Chang Kiraly, 43, of Menlo Park
- Thomas A. Nassif, 65, of Irvine
- Daniel Michael Curtin, 59, of Sacramento
- Omar Benjamin, 45, of Oakland
- Hector Vincent Barreto, 46, of San Juan Capistrano
- Forescee Mariquee Hogan-Rowles, 50, of Los Angeles

Note: The Commission provides a forum for ongoing dialogue on economic issues between state government and the private sector and serves as a vehicle for producing specialized studies and reports to inform the work of the Governor and the Legislature. The Lieutenant Governor chairs the Commission, which is comprised of 16 other members, ten of whom the Governor appoints. Three Senate members and three Assembly members are appointed by the Senate President Pro Tem, and the Speaker of the Assembly respectively.

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